



Customer Information

Biocides in printing inks and related products

From time to time, printing ink manufacturers are asked whether printing inks and varnishes as well as related products such as fountain solutions and cleaning agents are compliant to Regulation (EU) No 528/2012 concerning the use of biocidal products.

Please note that the use of biocides primarily depends on the printing ink technology. Biocides are not necessary and therefore not intentionally added in Siegwerk products that belong to one of the following technologies:

- Solvent-based inks and related products
- Oil-based inks (conventional offset) and related products
- UV curing inks and related products

However, to prevent microbiological contamination (bacteria, fungus, yeast), biocidal products are a necessary part of the formula of practically all **water-based inks and varnishes**, as well as of many **water-based fountain solutions and cleaning agents** for offset printing.

The biocides and preservatives used by Siegwerk for water-based products comply with the biocides regulation (EU) 528/2012, especially with article 95(2) stipulating the need for the supplier of being listed in the union list for the correct product type. Furthermore, the concentration of biocides in our formulations is very low. Therefore the printing inks will not show primary biocidal effects (e.g. on a printed final product) and the use of the biocides is to be considered covered by the **product type 6 “Preservatives for products during storage”**.

According to the regulation, the liquid ink is not a “biocidal product” but a “treated article”. After the printing process the dried ink layer will not show biocidal effects. Consequently, the final printed material would not be a “treated article” as it is not treated itself with a biocidal product and does not intentionally incorporate a biocidal product, as far as the printing ink is concerned.

Additionally, water-based inks and varnishes that are declared as suitable for food packaging in their technical data sheet in the EMEA region contain only biocidal substances that are listed in the Swiss Ordinance (EDI 817.023.21) and can therefore be used for commodities and food packaging, if the SML's are observed and followed.

The information in this document reflects Siegwerk's policy and commitments. This statement is valid without signature.